Decrease in PLF of Thermal Power Plants in the country

993. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER, AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the thermal capacity at present constitutes about 68.70 per cent of the total installed capacity in the country and contributes about 72.82 per cent of the total power generation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during 1988-89 the PLF was 55 per cent as compared to 56.5 per cent of the previous year i.e. 1987-88, if so, what are the reasons for decrease in PLF, indicating the percentage of PLF during 1989-90 and during April, 1990 to March, 1991;

(o) whether it is a fact that in the private sector PLF during 1990-91 was 67.4 epr cent wheres in Central Sector the All India average was of 53.3 per cent during April, 1990 to March, 1991; and

(d) if so what positive measures Government have taken or propose to take to achieve the optimum utilisation of he existing thermal units in the country and to increase the PLF during 1991-92?

THE: MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINSTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI); (a) The thermal capacity at present is about 69.42 per cent of the total installed capacity in the country and contributes about 70.30 per cent of the total energy generation during April—August, 1991.

(b) There was a severe drought in the country during 1987-88 and to meet the requirement of power, the thermal power stations had to generate more power. The planned maintenance Of the plants was postponed. During 1988-89, there was good monsoon and consequent excess hydro generation and less irrigation requirement c power. It was on account of this reason that Plant Load Factor c thermal plants during 1987-88 was higher than during 1988-89.

The thermal Plant Load Factor c 1989-90 and 1990-91 is 56.5 per cer and 55.8 per cent respectively.

(c) The Plant Load Factor of total private sector and total central sector during 1990-91 is 58.4 per cent am 58.1 per cent respectively. All India average Plant Load Factor is 53.8 per cent during 1990-91.

(d) Various measures being takn] for optimum utilisation of installed capacity include (i) Renovation ant Modernistion of old units, (ii) assist ance to Electricity Boards in under taking plant betterment programmes (iii) supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal, (iv) training of Operating and Monitoring personnel, and (v) strengthening of transmission and distribution systems.

Development of Buddhist Pilgrin Centres

994. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Tourism has prepared any action plan for the improvement of Buddhist-Pilgrimage Centres in Orissa Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) if so, what are the details of facilities likely to be provided on the National State Highways to the tourists;

(c) what is the total amount of assistance so far been provided for this purpose by the Overseas Economic Corporation Fund of Japan; and

(d) what are the other Buddhist Centres identified by the Task Force-